

EDGEFIELD COUNTY COUNCIL MINUTES
March 4, 2003

The regular meeting of the Edgefield County Council was held at 6:00 P. M. Tuesday, March 4, 2003, in the County Council Chambers, 225 Jeter St., Edgefield. Chairman Kneece called the meeting to order and gave the invocation. The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was recited.

Members present:

C. Monroe Kneece, Chairman
Willie C. Bright, Vice Chairman
Norman Dorn, Councilman
Joel D. Hudson, Councilman
B. Everette Kitchens, Councilman

Others present:

Wayne Adams, County Administrator
John F. Bryd, Jr., County Attorney
Barbara R. Stark, Clerk to Council
and others as per list attached

Minutes

Motion was made by Councilman Bright, seconded by Councilman Dorn, to approve the February 4, 2003, Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Edgefield County Council. Motion carried unanimously.

Reports

Councilman Dorn asked about Report Number 4 (U. S. Census Report correction). The Administrator stated that it has to do with an appeal to the U. S. Census Bureau by the Town of Trenton, concerning the number of housing units counted. The results: the corrected count of the county's total population was decreased by two from 24,595 to 24,593.

Ordinances

Motion was made by Councilman Hudson, seconded by Councilman Kitchens, to approve second reading of Ordinance No. 02-03-431, "An Ordinance Amending Title XV of the Edgefield County Code of Ordinances to Clarify Regulations Concerning the Establishment and Operation of Home Occupation Businesses in Zoned Areas of the County." Motion carried unanimously. A Public Hearing was held at 5:00 P. M., Tuesday, March 4, 2003.

Second reading of Ordinance No. 02-03-433, "An Ordinance Providing for a Lease and Agreement between Edgefield County and Plane Fun, Inc., Whereby the Latter Shall Lease the Premises for the Trenton Airport and Serve as the Airport's Fixed Base Operator", was the next agenda item. After a brief discussion the following amendment

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was offered by Councilman Hudson, seconded by Councilman Dorn, :

In Article II, Paragraph B (iii), strike the first sentence and insert the following sentence in lieu thereof:

If this Lease and Agreement is terminated as provided for in Article II, Paragraph B (iv), or as provided for in Article II, Paragraph D or F, as set forth herein, LESSOR shall pay LESSEE or LESSEE's assigns the fair market value of all buildings under ownership of LESSEE or LESSEE's assigns at the time of termination.

The amendment was approved unanimously. The chairman then called for the question on the main motion, as amended. Motion was made by Councilman Hudson, seconded by Councilman Dorn, to approve the second reading of Ordinance No. 02-03-433, as amended. Motion was approved unanimously. A Public Hearing on this ordinance was held at 5:15 P. M. Tuesday, March 4, 2003.

Motion was made by Councilman Bright, seconded by Councilman Kitchens, to approve third reading of Ordinance No. 02-03-430, "An Ordinance Authorizing the Execution and Delivery of Not Exceeding \$1,500,000 in Principal Amount of a Hospital Revenue Bond Anticipation Note (The Edgefield County Hospital Project) of Edgefield County, South Carolina; Providing for the Form and Details of the Note; Providing for the Disposition of the Proceeds Thereof; and Other Matters Related Thereto." Motion carried unanimously. A Public Hearing was held on this ordinance at 5:45 P. M. Tuesday, March 4, 2003.

Motion was made by Councilman Dorn, seconded by Councilman Hudson, to approve first reading of Ordinance No. 02-03-434, "An Ordinance Amending Chapter 39 of the Edgefield County Code of Ordinances to Change Certain Terminology in Order to Comply with Recommendations of the South Carolina Emergency Management Division." Motion carried unanimously.

Resolutions

A motion was made by Councilman Bright, seconded by Councilman Dorn, to approve Resolution No. 02-03-258, "A Resolution and Agreement Transferring the Operation of Edgefield County Emergency Medical Services from Edgefield County Hospital to Edgefield County, and Directing the Edgefield County Administrator to Prepare an Emergency Medical Services Operating Budget." Motion carried unanimously.

Supplemental Agenda

Council's agreed to grant consideration of two resolutions not included on the original agenda.

Resolution No. 02-03-259, "A Resolution Designating Emerald Center Multi-County Board for Disabilities and Special Needs as An Entity in Edgefield County." The

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Administrator explained this is a resolution that allows Emerald Center to apply for grants (council has done this routinely in the past). There is no objection by the local Senior Citizens Council which also provides rural transportation services. Motion was made by Councilman Hudson, seconded by Councilman Kitchens, to accept this resolution. Motion carried unanimously.

Resolution No. 02-03-260, “A Resolution Designating April as Fair Housing Month in Edgefield County.” Motion was made by Councilman Bright, seconded by Councilman Hudson to approve this resolution. Motion carried unanimously.

New Business

First item of new business was concerning timber management services for county property. Gillespie & Associates Land and Timber Management, Inc., Greenwood, is the company that the county originally used for timber management services when the county sold and cut timber several years ago behind the Manor House Nursing Home. The county is now in need of this type service again. Chairman Kneece asked council if they wanted to use Gillespie and Associates again or go out for bids. County was very pleased with the services previously. The administrator explained this came about when the surveys were done at the old chain gang camp (direction of council), pursuant to a request from the adjacent church to buy space to augment their cemetery. In the process of the survey the surveyor noticed that some of the wood had bugs in it and would need to be harvested as soon as possible in order to get the most salvage value out of that timber. Mr. John Kemp walked the land and made a recommendation to us. He said that we definitely needed to cut some of the timber. Harvest some of the bug wood and thin some of the existing timber. Mr. Kemp recommended Mr. Gillespie. Later we found out that Mr. Gillespie had done the original cutting on that tract some years earlier. Under the procurement code, the council can waive the formalities and agree to do business with a company on the basis of a previous contract. That would be the provision under which council would be doing this without a request for proposals or bids. Could go out for proposals or bids, just take a little longer. Motion was made by Councilman Kitchens, seconded by Councilman Bright, to accept Gillespie & Associates. Motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Lynn Rearden addressed council concerning a Relay for Life Proclamation. This Proclamation designates May 30-31, 2003, American Cancer Society Relay for Life Weekend. This weekend honors cancer survivors. Motion was made by Councilman Dorn, seconded by Councilman Bright, to approve the Relay for Life Proclamation. Motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Lex Walters, President of Piedmont Tech gave an update on the Edgefield Center. Dr. Walters stated it had been a good year. Significant increases in enrollment this year, Greenwood and Edgefield. Serving this spring 163 in the Edgefield Center (up 11% over

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last spring); an additional 249 students enrolled in the programs offered in Greenwood. Can now offer a full degree program in four areas at the Edgefield Center. Can now offer a full degree program in four areas at the Edgefield Center. Good working relationship with the local school district and local center. Invited council to visit the Greenwood Center.

The Administrator explained the next item on the agenda (Thousand Pines Subdivision deed). The county has maintained the road in the subdivision since Sept. 20, 1994. The deed was not executed at that time, which was an oversight; asking council at this time to formally execute the deed. Motion was made by Councilman Hudson, seconded by Councilman Dorn, to approve acceptance of the deed for the roadway of Thousand Pines Subdivision, as described in the deed dated Sept. 20, 1994, into the county maintenance system. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Lou Amick from Greenwood, representing MEG's House and also the GAMES Coalition for the Homeless, addressed council concerning funding from the county for these two entities. MEG'S House asked for funding of \$5,000 for FY 2002-03, and the GAMES Coalition asked for funding of \$2,300.00. MEG'S House serves approximately 300 clients a year (300 abused women and children). GAMES Coalition, which is a newer coalition formed last year, served approximately 30 clients in the five counties. Have one house leased in the city of Edgefield that has already served four clients this year (within the past ten months). These are homeless people, homeless families. Currently leasing ten homes in the five county-area to service these people. They are allowed to stay in the homes up to two years so they can get on their feet and go into permanent type housing (Rural Transition Housing). Mr. Amick stated that he was asking for the monies to come from general funds; however, if the money isn't available from general funds, would like to address Bill 585 that became law in the State of South Carolina June 28, 1999, covers Victims' Assistance. The Victims' Assistance Funds called 141 funds are fines and assessments imposed on convictions in general sessions, municipal and magistrates' court. The law says these funds must be appropriated for the exclusive purpose of providing victims' services. These funds must be appropriated for this specific purpose as required by Article 15 of Title 16. First priority goes to local law enforcement, local detention facilities, prosecutors and summary courts. Second priority of this law says that funds must be given to programs to expand victims' services beyond those required by Article 15 of Title 16. Those funds must be carried forward from year to year and used exclusively for the provision of services for victims of crime. Pulled from the internet, at the time Edgefield County currently has over \$137,000 in this fund. Asking if the general fund does not have sufficient funds to fund these two programs, asking council to use the 141 fund to give these two organizations funds to run the programs. Councilman Hudson asked Mr. Amick if they receive state funds. "No", all federal funds used for the transitional housing. MEG'S House: state funds, federal funds, donations from civic organizations, United Way. GAMES is a part of MEG'S House, so

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the same person who runs MEG'S House is also in charge of GAMES Coalition. Mr. Hudson asked Mr. Amick if what he was saying was that by law county has to give GAMES/MEG'S House that money. "No," stated Mr. Amick, by law (141 funds) in accordance with Bill 585, must be used for the exclusive purpose of providing victims' services. Councilman Hudson stated that the county is getting ready to go into the budget and wanted everyone present to know it will be hard to make the budget, and he will not give out county taxpayers' money. They can give it out. First priority for the 141 funds is law enforcement. Mr. Amick said, "In my opinion, if the county does not support this homeless coalition, then I will not come to Edgefield to rent another home for a homeless person that will come from Edgefield. Right here in town, the family living in the house, is from Edgefield, but if you do not want to support the program that is fine with me, will take it to Saluda, Abbeville, and Greenwood Counties." Took a homeless count in the five county area (Feb. 6) and counted 1167 homeless people. Over 400 from Edgefield County. This count came from schools, DSS and other organizations in Edgefield. Councilman Hudson made a motion to give half the amount listed for this year to MEG'S House and to GAMES, and after this year to do away with it. Councilman Bright made a motion to accept this as information and have the administrator find more information on this. Motion seconded by Councilman Dorn. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Roosevelt Scott, Bettis Park adult recreation, was not present.

Next agenda item was the appointment by Councilman Bright of a representative to represent Bettis Park on the countywide recreation committee. Mr. Bright did not have a name, and asked that this appointment be carried over to next month.

Guests

Ms. Deidra Thompson was present to address council concerning the duties of the Building Official. Ms. Thompson had a house fire on April 3, 2002. She has been in the process of renovating the house. Hired a contractor on May 14, 2002, and he started on the home approximately four days later. On October 4, 2002, the final inspection was conducted by the Building Inspector (located in the Edgefield County Courthouse). He signed off completely saying that everything was up and running –could move in. Chose not to move in because she did not feel things were ready. Still many problems with the house for which Ms. Thompson blames the local building official and the state level. The chairman stated that he felt the problems were with the contractor. A reputable contractor would not have left the house like that. Ms. Thompson thanked council for their time, and she felt that it is more than the contractor. It is the local inspector as well as the state inspector. People should do their jobs and not expect the homeowner to do their jobs.

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Comments from the public

Mr. David Rearden addressed council concerning the American Legion Post #209. For approximately one year nothing has been done (renovations) to the Post. Wanted to know the position of the letter that he had sent to council concerning any money left for Post 20 (Council did not receive the letter.) If there is any money remaining, would like for it to be turned over to them so they can complete the work that was started. Councilman Dorn at this time stated that "In 1956, February 1st, the school board of Edgefield County deeded that property to the Edgefield County Colored Community Citizens. Now, if you can make a private organization out of that or any other organization it is fine. I don't think you can re-write a deed that has been written. Make sure that deed is recorded so when questions come up of who owns that or who is in charge of that, I will relay it back (had I known this I would have brought the deed with me)-1956, February 1st, the school board of Edgefield County deeded that property that was formally known as Parker School or Edgefield County Academy, whatever the name. Will repeat again so it will be on record: The Edgefield County Colored Community Citizens-you make anything else out of it you want to." Mr. Rearden asked again that the remaining funds be given to Post 209; if there are no funds, then he is through with it. Mr. Dorn said that all of the money has been spent for that project. Case closed. Motion was made by Councilman Dorn, seconded by Councilman Hudson, to close this account. Motion carried unanimously.

Claims approved as follows:

A. PAYROLL: 2/3/03 thru 2/16/03

Regular.....\$91,323.58

PAYROLL: 2/17/03 thru 3/2/03

Regular.....\$91,619.43

B. GENERAL OPERATING.....\$316,307.17

No executive session.

There being no further business, Councilman Hudson made a motion to adjourn. The next regular meeting of council will be held Tuesday, April 1, 2003.

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ATTEST

Barbara R. Stark, Clerk to Council